

Olympic View-Middle Waterway Aquatic Reserve Open House
May 20, 2003 – Commencement Bay, Tacoma
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

NATURAL RESOURCES

- (OV) Save all the eelgrass beds you can! (habitat function)
- (MW) Protect/conservate species seen there:
Great Blue Heron, White Crown Sparrows, Sandpiper (Solitary or Spotted),
Caspian Terns (nesting nearby), Glaucous winged gull, Violet Green Swallows,
(Swallowtail?) butterflies
- (MW) Put in Purple Martin nest boxes
- (MW) Great potential site, esp. in terms of connectivity to Olympic View and rest of estuary.
- (MW) Great teaching location and good access-brings students from Stadium High School for field trips. Currently, not very pretty, but that can be ameliorated. Also brings Environmental Club at Stadium to site, and also as community service option.
- Consider additional sites within Commencement Bay for connectivity/habitat
- NRDA sites-Are they protected in perpetuity? If so, consider management/money to manage reserves and NRDA sites most efficiently/effectively
- Tap into Tribal & NRDA data
- These are good sites, and we need more reserves.
- (OV) NRDA monitoring plan covers basic habitat characteristics, need more monitoring of habitat utilization.

Even if salmonids not currently utilizing site, still imp. Refuge for other aquatic species, and may be used by salmon in future (esp. if more connected sites are created!)

- EPA, Ecology and DOT may have more information on runoff related to recent highway and bridge construction.
- Need to put in context of ongoing project-counting NRDA, other restoration efforts
- Need to protect Middle Waterway and Olympic View
- Also need NE shoreline outside Hylebos Waterway and shoreline from Thea Foss to Pt. Defiance—only referring to DNR land
- Excellent, gorgeous habitat remaining at shipway by Blair Waterway (Port Land)
- Simpson Tacoma Kraft has 5-8 years of monitoring data from restoration (Steward=Dave Macatee)
- These two reserves are no brainers!
- Middle Waterway is too shallow for commercial interests.
- Marbled Murrelet population (12-18 birds) south of Brown's Point. Also seals and sea lions southwest of Brown's Pt. (on barge breakwater). Probably pupping site.
- River otter.
- Peregrine falcons – (see City of Tacoma monitoring report) hunt in Middle Waterway
- Osprey present along Hylebos Waterway and along flats (feeding)

- Get Tacoma Audubon Christmas bird count—they crawled all over the flats, got a good list of common winter residents
- CHB adopt-a-wildlife area data sets on Hylebos and Squally
 - Does this data exist for Middle Waterway?
 - If not, could DNR/CHB coordinate efforts to include this kind of monitoring?
- Project Earth, UW Tacoma = student enviro. group-source of labor, interested in projects
- UW PhD. And Masters projects-get data (in Fisheries, Biology, Zoology, Oceanography, etc.)
- Look at multibeam floor mapping (USGS)

SITE EVALUATION PROCESS

- Major delta
- Connectivity
- Bottom fish nursery?
 - Juvenile rockfish recruitment
 - Salmon smolt hab.?
 - Shorebirds
 - Willets
- Site evaluation process should include environmental education potential
- Teaching restoration
- Understand implications of growth
- Number of schools and colleges that use sites
- Sites that have types of habitat that's already lost
- Sites that serve multiple purposes (e.g., education)
- Area receiving \$ for park development and people
- Part of a large whole
- Threats are overstated; no “real threats”
- Continuity – state/protected lands adjacent to/near sites
- Pay attention to what's upstream
 - May guide enforcement
 - Not necessarily designation criteria
- Present to school
 - Give field trips

MANAGEMENT- LAND USE

Neodelta Restoration (connection/support)

- 1) St. Paul Cap
- 2) St. Paul Restoration project
- 3) Off channel habitat (Puyallup River)
- 4) Go-Le-hi-te –opposite STP (c. 5mi. from mouth)
- 5) Simpson Middle Waterway site
- 6) City Middle Waterway site
- 7) DNR remediation (Area C)

- 8) Proposed Middle Waterway Act. Comm. (to east of Olympic View)
- 9) Olympic View Rest. Area
- 10) Thea Park bch.
- 11) Port of Tacoma-Milwaukee Water Way

-Management

- 1) NRDA trustees
- 2) City of Tacoma
- 3) MWAC
- 4) Simpson
- 5) NGO's

Land Use

- Public environmental – have signage – interpretive signs on 11th Street and out where boaters could read (in water)
- Olympic View
 - City owns beach in front of Pacific Plywood
 - Entire DNR-managed land is a Regulated Navigable Area – no activity that would disturb bottom and sediments
 - Eel grass beds on (within) each side of reserve (hoped that they will grow together across clean sediment cap in middle)
 - Any attempt to move activities carried out in Thea Foss Water. into reserve area would contaminate the
 - Peninsula between St. Paul and Middle Waterway is to be restored to estuary/mud flats and connected to Simpson restored area along waterway. City of Tacoma and Simpson Tacoma Kraft
 - Middle Waterway is located close to Stadium High School. It offers great potential to use as example of restoration in urban areas.—Important to leave spots for enviro. Ed. – Also by local universities UWT, UPS and PLU
 - Land use description is ok, however, please indicate that immediate adjacent uplands are restored.
 - (Owners of land along west side of waterway near Olympic View are still “owing” in NRDA settlements – may be opportunity to extend or further connect habitat areas)
 - Mitigation on eastern edge of Waterway from Foss Waterway cleanup will create continuous habitat all the way from Middle Waterway to mouth of the river.

Business interests and local citizen groups should be involved:

- Simpson Kraft (Dave McEntee)

Local citizen groups:

- Citizens for a Healthy Bay
- Tahoma Audobon Society – Bryan Flint
- Puyallup Watershed Council
- Friends of the Hylebos
- City of Tacoma – under NRDA commitments (Desireé Pooley)

- Port of Tacoma
- Local fisherman's group

What are the zoning requirements for the surrounding area – Port, City; need compatible longterm uses and plan

Puyallup Tribe should be involved

Pierce County Environmental Services (Water Program)

- Roy Huberd
- Barbara Anne Smolko

NRDA trustees

GENERAL

- Important to protect aquatic resources
- Reserves are important for salmon recovery
- Stations appear set up to disqualify reserves
- Pierce County water programs
- CHB – Citizens for a Healthy Bay, Tacoma
- Project Earth – UW Tacoma environmental group
- Given growth in Puget Sound Region, goal should be designating more reserve area, not decreasing